



Safety recommendation no. 159

Date of the publication	30.03.2021
Number of the final report	2021021301
Safety deficit	<p>On 13 February 2021, during operating hours at approximately 11.45am, on the three-seat detachable chairlift (TSD 3) linking Morgins to La Foilleuse, the maintenance bridge on tower no. 14 broke off and fell to the bottom of the tower. A passenger noticed that a piece of the system was on the ground and reported it to a member of the operating staff when he arrived at the upper terminal. A technical expert went immediately to the site and ordered the evacuation of the lift system. The installation was temporarily shut down while the technical staff secured the tower. There were no injuries.</p> <p>The collapse of part of the maintenance bridge of tower 14 resulted from fatigue caused by cyclic vibrations.</p> <p>Similar vibrations also occur in the welded and bolted joints. Non-destructive testing to date has also revealed cracks in the other towers of the system. Tower components which are repeatedly exposed to vibration can lead to the formation of cracks, and a component with a hairline crack can break at any time.</p>
Safety recommendation	<p>The STSB recommends that the Federal Office of Transport (FOT) instruct the lift operating company to conduct non-destructive testing of all the towers in the lift system and carry out any repairs needed to immediately correct any issues found.</p>
Addressees	Bundesamt für Verkehr
Stage of the implementation	<p>Implemented. Suspension of authorisation to operate the Morgins–La Foilleuse chairlift (installation No 73.026), issued on 15 April 2021, is lifted with immediate effect with the following two provisos:</p> <p>PDSCH shall implement the recommendation made by Garaventa SA in Section 2.1 of the report entitled 3-CLD Morgins–La Foilleuse / Line remediation (GLB239880 of 30.11.2020, signed on 01.06.2021).</p> <p>With the help of the constructor, it shall draw up the necessary documentation and work instructions. PDSCH shall explicitly inform the FOT in its annual reports of the results of the checks recommended by Garaventa SA.</p>
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	<p>Rapport de première information Rapport intermédiaire Rapport final</p>